

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

AID-05 EB-07 DLOS-06 /088 W
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R 201615Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1872

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 8523

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, PE, BL, CI

SUBJECT: BOLIVIAN OUTLET TO THE SEA

1. APRA CO-SECRETARY ARMANDO VILLANUEVA TOLD EMBOFFS SEPTEMBER 16 THAT THE GOP PLANS TO GIVE A NEGATIVE RESPONSE TO CHILE REGARDING BILATERAL CHILEAN/BOLIVIAN NEGOTIATIONS ON A BOLIVIAN CORRIDOR THROUGH FORMER PERUVIAN TERRITORY. VILLANUEVA SAID THAT EX-GOP PRIME MINISTER MERCADO JARRIN TOLD HIM THAT OF THE TEN COMMISSION MEMBERS WHO RECENTLY VISITED THE TACNA/ARICA AREA TO STUDY THE ISSUE AND ALL ITS RAMIFICATIONS INCLUDING A SURVEY OF THE ATTITUDES OF THE CIVILIAN POPULACE, ONLY THREE COMMISSION MEMBERS (INCLUDING FORMER GOP PRESIDENT AND COMMISSION CHIEF BUSTAMANTE Y RIVERO) VOTED IN FAVOR OF AGREEING TO CHILEAN/BOLIVIAN NEGOTIATIONS.

2. VILLANUEVA STATED THAT APRA FAVORED TH "INTERAMERICANIZATION" OR ARICA WHICH WOULD INCLUDE A GUARANTEE OF PERUVIAN ACCESS TO THE FREE PORT. A PERUVIAN VETO, SAID VILLANUEVA, WOULD ONLY HEIGHTEN MILITARY TENSION AND ESCALATE A REGIONAL ARMS RACE. THIS, HE SAID, WOULD BE WHOLLY SENSELESS AND ATTRIBUTABLE NOT TO NATIONAL INTERESTS BUT TO MILITARY HUBRIS.

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3. VILLANUEVA CONTENTED THAT PRESIDENT PEREZ OF VENEZUELA WAS IN ACCORD WITH THE APRA VIEW. HE WOULD SEEK TO INFLUENCE THE PARTIES AND GAIN ACCEPTANCE FOR THE INTERAMERICANIZATION OF ARICA INCLUDING SEPARATE PORT FACILITIES FOR BOLIVIA, CHILE AND PERU. PEREZ IS EXPECTED TO PRESS FOR THAT SOLUTION WHEN HE MEETS WITH MORALES BERMUDEZ IN DECEMBER, ACCORDING TO VILLANUEVA. THE SOLUTION WOULD INCLUDE A VENEZUELAN AND, HOPEFULLY, A U.S. COMMITMENT TO AID IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ARICA. THE "DREAM" OF PEREZ, AFFIRMED VILLANUEVA, EVEN CONTEMPLATES THE LOCATION OF ANDEAN PACT HEAD-QUARTERS IN ARICA AS A SIGN OF A REGIONAL COMMITMENT TO PEACE.

4. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED OTHER REPORTS THAT THE GOP WILL AGREE TO CHILEAN/BOLIVIAN NEGOTIATIONS, AS LONG AS PERU'S VITAL INTERESTS IN THE CORRIDOR ARE PROTECTED (LIMA 7677). A GOP BETO COULD HAVE UNFORTUNATE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES, DIRECTLY CONTRIBUTING TO INCREASED MILITARY TENSION AND AN ARMS BUILD-UP IN THE REGION. DEAN

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